

Abundant Life Church
Rev. Tedianne Hasapopoulos
October 21, 2018

Series: *The Offer*

Title: *Looking in a Mirror and Dimly Seeing the Image of God*

Consider what the world says about a person's identity. Ethnic identity, gender identity, work role identity, Halloween identity.

And, what does the Bible say about identity?

1. Every Person's Shared Identity

Genesis 1:26-31 (NLT)

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

2: A Restored and Repaired Identity

Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT)

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins....

Colossians 1:21-22 (NLT)

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Colossians 2:6-8 (NLT)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

3: A Migrated and Ever-Changing Identity in Christ

Colossians 3:3-4 (NLT)

For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is our life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Abundant Life Church
Rev. Tedianne Hasapopoulos
October 21, 2018

Ephesians 1:17-20 (NLT)

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

The Indwelling Spirit gives understanding and wisdom. The Spirit empowers and transforms!

4: Ambassadors of the Kingdom of God (Ephesians 2:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:20)

Ephesians 2:19-20 (NLT)

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household....

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Believers are children of the Father, and we are his heirs. We are brothers and sisters of Christ and in Christ. We are a part of a family who understands and gives love! We are citizens of a Kingdom with responsibilities and duties.

We represent Jesus to a broken and hurting world.

We do the Will of the Father, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, bringing restoration and reconciliation in small ways, every day to those around us.